



Montana  
**Office of Public Instruction**  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

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## MEMORANDUM

To: District IT Coordinators and Educational Technologists

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Re: Montana School Speed Test

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### PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR COLLEGUES!

Access to adequate broadband service is becoming more urgent and more necessary to meet the learning needs of students in every Montana school. In addition, all schools need to be prepared for computer-based assessments in the spring of 2015, and possibly sooner, for an opportunity to field test the new assessment in the spring of 2014. The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has partnered with a nonprofit organization, [Education Superhighway](#), to complete a Montana [School Speed Test](#) to assist in determining what broadband capacity your schools need to be ready to meet these instructional and assessment demands.

Information from the School Speed Test will enable decision-makers to take local steps to plan for possible funding implications and make the case to connect every teacher and student in your district to high-speed Internet. In order to accomplish this goal we all need to understand the current Internet speed and bottlenecks in our schools. School Speed Test data will help find network bottlenecks, support network planning, demonstrate the need for increased connectivity/hardware funding where it exists, and support your district readiness for the Smarter Balanced assessment system. Our partnership with Education Superhighway will allow you and OPI to easily crowd-source data from any in-school staff member with a free online application that measures available bandwidth to a classroom device.

### **Learn More:**

Join us on Thursday, September 12, at 2:00 pm for a presentation and opportunity to ask questions via chat in Adobe Connect. You will need speakers or headphones to listen to the presentation. Just click on this link to join the session: <http://connect.opi.mt.gov/sst2013/>

### **Get Started:**

- Starting October 1st, 2013, any person on a school network can go to <http://partners.schoolspeedtest.org/montana.html>, take a free School Speed Test in under a minute, and add data to your inventory.

*The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.*

- To ensure the assessment provides enough data to adequately address your possible funding and network needs, it is important to ensure that every school in your district takes 10-20 Speed Tests.

**What You Get:**

Once the Montana School Speed Test month ends, you will receive a report showing the bandwidth available (max, min, and average) in each school, as well as per-student bandwidth, that can help locate bottlenecks and support network planning. The OPI will also receive data from all schools who participate to help us in our effort to assist schools from the state level where needs are identified. School Speed Test data is a complement to data you may have started to collect with the [Technology Readiness Tool](#).

Questions? Please contact Colet Bartow, State Technology Readiness Coordinator, [cbartow@mt.gov](mailto:cbartow@mt.gov). (406)444-3583.